

HOW TO MAKE PUBLIC COMMENTS ON PROPOSED FEDERAL ACTIONS



WHAT ARE PUBLIC COMMENTS?

Public comments allow the public to provide feedback on a federal or state agency's proposed actions. For example, prior to finalizing a pesticide regulation, the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) must request public comments, allow a minimum 30-day response time, and publicly post and/or respond to the comments received.

WHY ARE PUBLIC COMMENTS IMPORTANT?

Regulators at federal agencies can lack certain information that may result in untenable, inadequate, or ineffective actions that could have broad impacts. Thus, stakeholders and other members of the public should, if possible, provide their knowledge, expertise, and experiences to positively influence an agency's future actions.

HOW DO I WRITE AND SUBMIT PUBLIC COMMENTS?

1. Find the document(s) associated with the proposed action by visiting <https://www.regulations.gov/> and using the search bar and sort by function. Read the document(s) carefully.
2. When you are ready to make a comment, click the white or blue comment box below or within the notice that announces the agency's proposed action. If you have difficulty finding the notice, sort by "Comments Due (Newer-Older)."
3. You can directly post the comment (5000-character limit) and/or attach up to 20 files (each with a 10 MB limit). Prior to writing the comment, click and read the two links posted near the top of the page: "Read Agency Guidelines" and "Commenter's Checklist."
4. You can also email, fax, mail, or hand deliver your comments (for e.g., see <https://www.epa.gov/dockets/where-send-comments-epa-dockets#hq>)

 **Comment**

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WHAT TO CONSIDER INCORPORATING IN YOUR PUBLIC COMMENTS

- Constructive feedback.
- Sound reasoning or scientific evidence to support your claims.
- Potential impacts (economic, social, etc.) of proposed actions.
- Alternative suggestions to proposed actions.
- Your credentials and experiences.

Be concise and, if you have questions, reach out to the agency.

Write a Comment

[Read Agency Guidelines](#) | [Commenter's Checklist](#)

Comment*

Start typing comment here...

5000

Attach Files

You can attach up to 20 files, but each file cannot exceed 10MB. Valid file types include: bmp, docx, gif, jpg, jpeg, pdf, png, psd, rtf, sgm, tiff, txt, word, xls, xml.

Drop files here or

[Browse...](#)

For additional help in writing and formatting public comments, go to:

<https://www.epa.gov/sites/default/files/2014-04/documents/making-your-voice-heard.pdf>